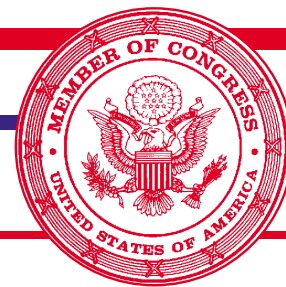




Congressman Terry

**EVERETT**

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## New Veterans Outpatient Clinics Planned

### Maxwell Air Force Base and Enterprise to Pick Up Veteran Clinics

Over the next eight years, Alabama veterans, who often travel large distances for medical treatment, will have more choices from which to seek outpatient care. In May, Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, announced his decision to establish six new veteran outpatient clinics in Alabama including locations at Maxwell Air Force Base and Enterprise in the Second Congressional District.

Secretary Principi announced the new clinics as part of a two-year national VA facility restructuring plan known as the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services Commission (CARES). The restructuring was designed to focus VA facilities and services on areas where VA population and needs are the greatest.

I am pleased that Secretary Principi has recognized that the veteran population in Alabama is increasing and that the VA should seek new ways to provide our veterans access to care. I have long held the belief that VA community-based outpatient clinics are one of the most effective ways to deliver non-emergency care to veterans who currently have to journey upwards of 100 miles for medical treatment. The six additional clinics will increase the ability of veterans to travel to a clinic and back home in the same day. The VA plans to locate the other Alabama outpatient clinics in Opelika, Childersburg, Bessemer, and Guntersville.

In 1996, as a senior member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I worked to secure a community-based outpatient clinic for Dothan that has proved a major benefit to Wiregrass veterans. That facility has expanded service to local veterans over the last eight years.

Meanwhile, the VA will continue its on-going study of the feasibility of converting the Montgomery VA Hospital to an outpatient-only facility.

The Montgomery VA Hospital is conveniently located to many veterans in Central and South Alabama who need in-patient care. I have asked the VA to study very carefully the impact of a potential loss of in-patient care upon the aging local veteran population. Any final decision impacting the Montgomery VA Hospital must be made first and foremost with our veterans in mind.



### Pike County's Historic Missile "Roll-Out"

In May I joined Senator Jeff Sessions in honoring a historic achievement at Lockheed Martin's Pike County plant. The defense contractor "rolled out" the first of the nation's new Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missiles which will play a key role in the new anti-missile defense system. As chairman of the House Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I've secured funding for the THAAD system since 2001 and in the new defense budget. See defense budget story on page 3.

(Photo: Lockheed Martin)

## House Addresses Veterans' Benefits

Congress continues to honor its commitment to our nation's veterans through benefit enhancements to former military and their spouses.

The House-passed National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4200) eliminates the Social Security offset under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), also known as the Widow's Tax. The legislation increases the annuities paid to survivors of military retirees who are 62 or older from 35 percent of retired pay to the percentages indicated for the following fiscal years for months:

- after September 2005 and before April 2006 .....40 percent
- after March 2006 and before April 2007 .....45 percent
- after March 2007 and before April 2008 .....50 percent
- after March 2008 .....55 percent

The bill also authorizes an open season for retired members to participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) or increase the level of their participation if they were previously participating below the maximum allowed level. The open season would begin October 1, 2005 and continue for two years.

(See Veterans' Benefits: Page 4)



### **Auto Industry Jobs for Elba**

In May I accompanied Governor Bob Riley, Mayor James Grimes, and other dignitaries for the ribbon cutting of the Toledo Molding and Die (TMD) plant in Elba. The facility's soon-to-be 100 employees perform injection and molding operations for Nissan and General Motors auto manufacturers. Alabama's growing auto industry continues to make gains in lowering unemployment rolls in the wake of textile and apparel job losses due to NAFTA. I have lent my support to State efforts for such new high-tech job recruitment.

## **America's Energy Needs Addressed in House Bill**

### ***Senate Yet to Act on Badly-Needed Energy Bill***

America's economic prosperity is tied to its ability to access abundant and affordable energy. Congress has the responsibility to pass a new national policy to ensure our nation has the energy resources it needs while reducing dependence upon foreign energy. Such a policy passed the U.S. House last November and again in June, but the Senate has yet to act.

Three decades ago, the United States was dependent upon foreign oil for 30 percent of its petroleum consumption. Today, America gets 60 percent of its oil from foreign sources – a 100 percent rise. Oil imports are expected to climb to 75 percent by 2010.

Fluctuations in oil and natural gas prices over the last few years have shown just how quickly our economy can be affected by manipulation from foreign oil suppliers. America must take steps now to reduce our foreign oil dependency, promote the exploration of domestic oil, gas and alternative fuels, and encourage greater conservation.

On November 18th, the U.S. House passed the Energy Policy Act of 2003. This major legislation balances energy conservation and efficiency, domestic production, research tax credits and incentives to reduce foreign oil dependence. It targets foreign energy dependence head-on by allowing more natural gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico as well as the construction of a natural gas pipeline from Alaska to the lower 48 states. Furthermore, the new energy bill would increase the corn-based additive ethanol in gasoline from 3.7 billion gallons in 2005 to 5 billion by 2012.

To better manage electricity supply, the energy bill gives authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to oversee competitive wholesale power markets. Meanwhile, the new legislation encourages more nuclear power production and streamlines government regulation on hydro-electric power plants to shorten the time it takes for re-licensing.

The energy bill not only will help decrease America's reliance upon foreign energy but also the increased investment in new technologies and gas pipeline and gas exploration is expected to generate over 600,000 new jobs. It is a balanced energy strategy for America's future and deserves passage.

Because the Senate has yet to vote on this vital legislation, in June the U.S. House took the unusual step of voting on and passing the Energy bill a second time. Americans demand that their government take proactive steps to increase domestic energy supply and efficiency. It is time for the Senate to act in kind.

## **Upholding Federal Marriage Laws**

### ***Federal Marriage Amendment Awaits House Vote***

President Bush called for a Constitutional amendment to uphold the sanctity of marriage by "defining and protecting marriage as a union of a man and woman as husband and wife." His announcement has set the debate over the definition of marriage.

In recent months, a few judges and local officials have sought to redefine this fundamental cornerstone of our society. These attempts to reorder marriage have come despite the fact that Congress and a majority of the states have overwhelmingly spoken in support of marriage between a man and a woman.

In 1996 Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act to define marriage under Federal law as a legal union between a man and a woman as husband and wife. President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act into law. In all, 38 states, including Alabama, have approved similar defense of marriage laws – demonstrating a consensus for protecting the traditional institution of marriage.

Without action, more arbitrary court decisions, litigation, and defiance of the law can be expected. More than 200 years of American law and thousands of years of human experience should not be changed on a whim by a handful of judges and local authorities.

Congress attempted to address this problem in the Defense of Marriage Act, which declared that no state must accept another state's definition of marriage. However, a court could strike down this language – obligating every state to recognize any relationship that a handful of judges or local officials choose to call marriage.

President Bush called on Congress to promptly pass, and to send to the states for ratification, an amendment to the Constitution defining and protecting marriage as a union of a man and woman as husband and wife.

This amendment, H.J. Res. 56 which I have cosponsored, will fully protect the sanctity of marriage while enabling state legislatures to make their own decisions about defining legal arrangements other than marriage. The Defense of Marriage Resolution is expected to come before the House for a vote later this year.



### **Fort Rucker Flight School XXI Breaks Ground**

In May I was pleased to join with Fort Rucker Commanding General E.J. Sinclair, Daleville Mayor Wes Etheredge, and officials from Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) for the groundbreaking of a \$10 million facility to house state-of-the-art computer simulators for the Army's Flight School XXI. The Daleville CSC facility will contain 38 helicopter simulators which will compliment and greatly enhance the training of Army aviators at Fort Rucker. Last year I secured additional Federal funding for the new Army flight training program in the 2004 defense budget to ensure that Fort Rucker has the resources it needs to conduct the new flight school.

## New Defense Bill Relies on Local Workers

### *Legislation Passed the House in May*

On May 20 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 2005 defense budget which includes funding for high-tech weapons systems to keep America safe as well as a much-needed pay raise for our men and women in uniform. The new defense bill also benefits Second District defense workers who craft those same weapons systems ensuring the nation's security.

The \$422 billion National Defense Authorization Act (HR 4200) spends \$2 billion on increased soldier protection, including beefed-up armor for Humvees and Army trucks to guard against roadside attacks common in Iraq. This funding also provides for more Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to increase surveillance and help prevent further roadside attacks on our troops. Additional personal body armor is also funded.

The new defense budget, which still must be reconciled with the Senate version, also has an Alabama connection – both in military training and in battlefield weapons. Fort Rucker, the home of U.S. Army Aviation, is fully funded in 2005 to launch Flight School XXI. This new training program is the Army's high-tech helicopter flight school which places more emphasis than ever before on state-of-the-art simulators and increased instruction in real combat aircraft.

Fort Rucker is where Army helicopter pilots earn their wings and this robust training budget will help ensure that future Army pilots are ready for the challenges of battle. I was pleased to support this Federal funding as well as \$750,000 to design a new hangar at Cairns Army Air Field at Fort Rucker. Fort Rucker will also play a role in the development of the Army's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program.

\$1.2 billion in the new defense budget is going to new and on-going weapon systems production in which Lockheed Martin, near Troy, has a stake. In May, the Pike County defense contractor rolled out its first Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile. I was pleased to add funding for this program, which is part of America's new missile defense shield, to ensure the production schedule remains on track.

The Pike County plant also has a part in the new Loitering Attack Missile (LAM) which is still in development. The defense budget also orders 360 Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missiles (JASSM), 500 Hellfire anti-tank, helicopter-mounted missiles, and 200 shoulder-fired, anti-tank Javelin missiles, all of which are assembled in Pike County.

In Central Alabama, GKN of Montgomery and Tallassee is in line to share in the production of 35 new UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters bound for the U.S. Army. Down in the Wiregrass, JKM of Eufaula is once again involved in upgrading anti-cruise missile systems on U.S. Navy vessels as part of the Phalanx Close-In Weapon System Block 1B upgrade.

The new defense bill also includes \$772,000 in design funding I requested for facility enhancements for the 187th Air Guard Unit at Montgomery Regional Airport.



### Protecting Social Security for Qualified Beneficiaries

The issue of allowing illegal aliens to receive Social Security benefits is a major concern to many seniors in Alabama. In April I met with Flora "Grandma" Green of the Seniors Coalition and reviewed thousands of petitions from seniors across America, including several hundred from the Second Congressional District, calling on Congress to block benefits to illegal aliens from becoming law. I also oppose such benefits to illegals and have cosponsored the Social Security for Americans Only Act of 2004 (HR 489). Immigrants who come to America must do so legally and follow our laws. Social Security must be protected for qualified, law-abiding Americans.

(Photo: The Seniors Coalition)



### New Medicare Discount Prescription Drug Cards

On June first, Medicare began helping seniors sign up for new discount prescription drug cards. Seniors can choose the card that best meets their individual health care needs. In 2006 Medicare will begin offering prescription drug benefits.

The official Medicare website, [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), provides customized information, the differences in drug coverage, pharmacy participation and prices among the available cards.

Similar assistance is available by phone, toll free, at 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY: 1-877-486-2048). Seniors can also ask the Medicare operator to send them a personalized booklet.

In Alabama, seniors can access Medicare prescription drug card info at 1-800-AGE-LINE.

## EVERETT KEY VOTES, 108th Congress, Second Session

### YES • Broadcast Decency Act (HR 3717)

Increases penalties for television and radio broadcasts of obscene, indecent, and profane material.  
Passed the House on 03/11/04 (391-22)  
Pending Senate vote

### YES • Marriage Penalty Tax Relief (HR 4181)

Making permanent Federal marriage penalty tax relief.  
Passed the House on 04/28/04 (323-95)  
Pending Senate vote

### YES • Ten Percent Tax Bracket (HR 4275)

Making permanent Federal ten percent tax bracket.  
Passed House on 05/13/04 (344-76)  
Pending Senate vote

### YES • Defense Authorization Act (HR 4200)

2005 defense bill with military personnel pay raise and additional protection for our troops in Iraq.  
Passed the House on 05/20/04 (391-34)  
Senate version (S 2400) passed Senate on 6/23/04 (97-0)

### YES • Energy Policy Act (HR 4503)

National energy strategy to reduce dependence on foreign oil through increased domestic drilling and conservation programs. Identical legislation (HR 6) passed the House on 11/18/03.  
Passed House on 06/15/04 (244-178)  
Pending Senate vote

### YES • American Jobs Creation Act (HR 4520)

Ends tariffs on American manufacturers and farmers and provides tax relief to allow business to be more competitive and create jobs.  
Passed the House on 06/17/04 (251-178)  
Passed Senate (S 1637) on 5/11/04 (92-5)



### Wiregrass Cadets at West Point

Four young men I nominated for a U.S. military academy education are currently at West Point, NY; one of whom, Smith Griggs, graduated in May. All hail from Dothan's Northview High School. Left to right: Will Hewitt (Class of '06), Smith Griggs (Class of '04), Brian Mainwaring (Class of '05), and Todd Mainwaring (Class of '07).

(Photo: David Spangenberg/Debbie Mainwaring)

### Students Accepted by U.S. Military Academies

As of late June, six Southeast Alabama young people have already received appointments from the U.S. service academies for the fall 2004 class. I was pleased to nominate each of them in December.

**Victor Manuel Colon**, son of Victor and Mikyong Colon of Fort Rucker and a senior at Daleville High School, has received a Naval Academy appointment.

**Jacklyn Renee Oeser**, daughter of Jeffrey and Julie Oeser of Prattville and a senior at Prattville High School, has received an Air Force Academy appointment.

**Richard Allen Riley**, son of James Riley and Diane Johnson of Wetumpka and a senior at the Alabama School of Math and Science (Mobile), has received a Merchant Marine Academy appointment.

**Zach B. Roycroft**, son of James and Lynnette Roycroft of Dothan and a senior at Dothan High School, has received an Air Force Academy appointment.

**Benjamin Pierce Whatley**, son of Gavin and Sharon Whatley of Dothan and a graduate of Dothan High School, has received a Naval Academy appointment.

**Saeah Lee Wood**, daughter of William and Juyun Wood of Daleville and a senior at Daleville High School, has received a Merchant Marine Academy appointment.

Congratulations to each of these outstanding young people!

### Veterans' Benefits (continued from page 1)

HR 4200 extends TRICARE, the military's health care system, to National Guard members and reservists and their families. It permanently authorizes coverage for mobilized reservists and their families to begin up to 90 days prior to the start of active duty. It waives deductible payments required by TRICARE for dependents of reservists who are called to active duty for more than 30 days.

In addition, I am a cosponsor of the Early Retirement Bill (HR 742), which would reduce from the minimum age from 60 to 55 for the receipt of military retired pay for members of the Reserve and National Guard who have served at least 20 years. Moreover, I have cosponsored the Retired Pay Restoration Act (HR 303), which would provide full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation.

Passage of HR 303 would build on the law Congress enacted last year in authorizing Concurrent Receipt. That legislation, the Fiscal Year 2004 Defense Authorization Act, included \$22 billion over ten years to phase-in this dual benefit for military retirees rated 50 percent disabled or higher by the Veterans Administration (VA). This new benefit is also available to Reservists and Guard members who are injured in the line of duty.



### Second District County Honored at U.S. Capitol

Coffee County was honored in April for its programs to help needy seniors. The Capitol Hill event shone a spotlight on just 24 of the nation's 3,066 counties for their volunteer programs with "Acts of Caring" awards. Coffee County was the first county in Alabama to establish an adult daycare center. I thanked commission chairman Robert Stephens (far right) as well as Mrs. Martha Stephens and Wilson Mobley, Jr., county administrator for the county's work of behalf of seniors.

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### Alabama's Second District

